

Appln No. 09/920,394
Reply to Office Action July 16, 2003
Amendment dated January 7, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, or claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3 (CANCELED).

4 (Currently Amended). ~~The compound of claim 2~~
~~wherein the~~ An antisense oligonucleotide 8 to 50
nucleobases in length that specifically hybridizes to a
sequence within the nucleic acid sequence spanning
nucleotide 14 to 1741 of SEQ ID NO: 3, and demonstrates
at least 12% inhibition of the expression of a nucleic
acid molecule encoding acyl coenzyme A cholesterol
acyltransferase-1 (ACAT) in a cell that endogenously
expresses said ACAT;

wherein said antisense oligonucleotide comprises at
least one modified internucleoside linkage.

5 (Currently Amended). ~~The compound~~ antisense
oligonucleotide of claim 4 wherein the modified
internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

6 (Currently Amended). ~~The compound~~ antisense
oligonucleotide of claim 2 4 wherein the antisense
oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar
moiety.

7 (Currently Amended). ~~The compound~~ antisense
oligonucleotide of claim 6 wherein the modified sugar
moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar moiety.

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8 (Currently Amended). The ~~compound~~ antisense oligonucleotide of claim 2 4 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified nucleobase.

9 (Currently Amended). The ~~compound~~ antisense oligonucleotide of claim 8 wherein the modified nucleobase is a 5-methylcytosine.

10 (Currently Amended). The ~~compound~~ antisense oligonucleotide of claim 2 4 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a chimeric oligonucleotide.

Claim 11 (CANCELLED).

12 (Currently Amended). A composition comprising the ~~compound~~ antisense oligonucleotide of claim 1 4 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

13 (Original). The composition of claim 12 further comprising a colloidal dispersion system.

Claim 14 (CANCELLED).

15 (Currently Amended). A method of inhibiting the expression of acyl coenzyme A cholesterol acyltransferase-1 (ACAT) in cells or tissues that endogenously express said ACAT comprising contacting said cells or tissues *in vitro* with the ~~compound~~ antisense oligonucleotide of claim 1 4 so that expression of acyl coenzyme A cholesterol acyltransferase-1 is inhibited.

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Claims 16-23 (CANCELLED).

24(New). The antisense oligonucleotide according to claim 4, wherein said antisense oligonucleotide demonstrates at least 30% inhibition of the expression of a nucleic acid molecule encoding acyl coenzyme A cholesterol acyltransferase-1.